Greetings from Purdue! It may have been a long and dreary winter, but plenty of exciting things have been happening in the Department of Political Science. In March, senior political science major and scholarship recipient Melissa Gokmogol presented her research on “Cleaner Air Beyond California” at the College of Liberal Arts Honors Colloquium. Melissa will graduate in May and will attend Yale University’s Campaign School during the summer. This fall she will start a Political Management graduate program at George Washington University in Washington, DC. In February, sophomore political science major Michael Brannigan represented the department at the 55th United States Air Force Academy Assembly in Colorado. Michael had the opportunity to interact with military and civilian leaders as well as academic experts. This summer he will intern with the Archdiocese of Chicago. It is my pleasure to introduce you to these two wonderful students, who are both deeply appreciative of the opportunities provided by the Department of Political Science – opportunities made possible by generous support from our alumni and friends. We thank you!

Melissa Gokmogol, recipient of the Lola C. and Dolores G. Reinsch Scholarship and Michael Brannigan, Purdue representative at the 55th US Air Force Academy Assembly.

INTRODUCING: Our New Faculty Members

Dr. Nadia Brown is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and African American Studies, and a 2014 Faculty Scholar for the Susan Bulkeley Butler Center for Leadership Excellence. She specializes in American Politics, especially Black Politics and Women and Politics. Dr. Brown’s research examines identity politics, legislatures, and Black women’s studies. She is the author of numerous journal articles and the path-breaking book, Sisters in the Statehouse: Black Women and Legislative Decision Making (Oxford University Press, 2014). Her current project investigates the politics of appearance for Black women candidates in public office. Dr. Brown will teach a course on Black Political Participation this summer. She earned her PhD from Rutgers University in 2010 and a BA in Political Science from Howard University in 2004.

Dr. Valeria Sinclair-Chapman is an Associate Professor of Political Science. Her work focuses on American political institutions, minority representation in Congress, and minority political participation. She is the author and co-author of many journal articles and book chapters, as well as an award-winning book, Countervailing Forces in African-American Political Activism, 1973-1994 (Cambridge University Press, 2006). Her current research investigates how legislators represent the interests of racial and ethnic minorities in Congress at various stages of the legislative process. She will teach a senior seminar on Race, Gender, and Political Representation this fall. She earned her PhD from The Ohio State University in 2002 and a BA from the University of North Carolina-Asheville in 1991.
What began as a volunteer experience for Amnesty International’s (AI) Archival Committee many years ago has now become the primary driving force for Dr. Ann M. Clark’s research on international appeals for justice. In 2012, Dr. Clark received the “Enhancing Research in the Humanities and the Arts Grant” from the Purdue Office of the Vice President for Research to support her study on “Human Rights Texts for Digital Research: Archiving and Analyzing Amnesty International’s Historic Urgent Action Bulletins at Purdue University.” The project is a much needed effort to preserve human rights documents and combines academic research with this process. Dr. Clark has interviewed individuals like Tracy Ulteit-Moe who issued the first Urgent Action (UA) Bulletin in 1973, visited Nederland, Colorado where AI USA’s UA network was based, accessed AI organizational archives at Maastricht, Netherlands, and brought the original UAs to Purdue. With the collaboration of Purdue Libraries and research assistants, the original UAs from 1974 to 2007 are being digitized, to be launched online as an open collection for public access from Purdue Libraries’ website. UAs are one of the oldest forms of appeals in response to urgent situations of human rights violations. Dr. Clark’s project will advance her research on how and why people appeal for help across borders and establish Purdue as a leading force in human rights archival research.

Child Survival Revolution

Katie Cahill-Rincón, PhD Candidate

Katie Cahill-Rincón, recipient of Purdue’s inaugural “Global Policy Research Institute Fellowship” and the “Frank L. Wilson Award for Field Research,” arrived in India in the sweltering heat of June 2013. Katie went to South Asia to study the inner-workings of child immunization programs in India and Bangladesh and the role of international organizations in immunization efforts. Katie’s interest in the topic was first piqued when she took Dr. Dwayne Woods’s course on democ-
A Boilermaker in London

**Walter Schostak**, undergraduate student, holding the Declaration of Independence at the Parliamentary Archives, London

Purdue is full of interesting students and their stories. Walter Schostak is among these. Walter is double-majoring in Political Science and Aeronautical Engineering. Under the direction of Dr. Daniel De-Laurentis in Purdue’s School of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Walter works on modelling software. His educational experiences have taken him from the Midwest to London, then to Washington, DC, and back again to Purdue. The summer of 2012 Walter was an engineering intern for the Human Exploration and Operations Group at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in West Virginia. In this position, he helped in the development of software testbeds and procedures for flight software testing on the Orion Multi-Purpose Crew Vehicle Project. Continuing his internship experiences, in the spring of 2013, Walter interned for Member of Parliament Chris Heaton-Harris at the House of Commons in London. During his time at Parliament, Walter handled a variety of constituent-related casework and, in one instance, saved a person from deportation. As soon as Walter returned to the US, he participated in a DC Maymester program taught by Department of Communication clinical professor, Ambassador Carolyn Curiel. During the program, he attended a meeting with members of Congress and Speaker of the House, John Boehner, about the Pentagon’s Ballistic Missile Defense systems. Walter is looking forward to joining the Political Science Department in the fall as a graduate student.

Indiana Legislative Internships

Every Monday evening Dr. Suzanne Parker takes an hour drive to Indianapolis, parks her car near The Indiana Statehouse, and makes her way into one of the state committee rooms where undergraduates from Purdue, Indiana University, Ball State, Indiana State University, and IUPUI gather after long hours of legislative duty. The students are legislative interns for the Indiana General Assembly and are taking Dr. Parker’s course on Indiana Government and Politics. The course is part of a cooperative internship program offered by many universities across the state. This year Purdue is taking the lead in running the course, under the supervision of Internship Director Dr. Parker. At Purdue, all students interested in politics are invited to attend a meet-and-greet event where they get to interact with members of the Democratic and Republican parties running the internship program. Purdue students who become interns then proceed to enroll in the course, which allows them to earn credit toward their degrees and conduct their own research projects with help from Dr. Parker, who also provides additional hours of consultation for Purdue students once a month on Saturday mornings. With the dedication that Dr. Parker provides, students are able to apply what they’ve learned in the classroom and explore possible career paths.

LEARNING

**Suzanne Parker**, Associate Professor of American Politics, with legislative interns, Erika Fisher, Marcel Duplantier, Alana Engler, and Samantha Schultz

**SEED PLANTING**

**Sustainable Development**

**Lindsay Markle**, a 2013 BA in Political Science, conducted research with Dr. Tom Mustillo during her junior and senior years. Together they created a video that displayed levels of democracy around the world from 1950 to the present and investigated projects such as seed planting and micro-finance that would promote sustainable development in Haiti. Lindsay says her work as a research assistant with Dr. Mustillo was a great learning experience that helped her prepare for graduate school.

**TEACHING EXCELLENCE**

**2012-2013 Awards**

Leigh cracks Rosie up with stories about his students!

Leigh Raymond, (left), Professor of Public Policy and Director of the Center for the Environment, 2012-13 College of Liberal Arts Award for Educational Excellence

Rosalee Clawson, (right), Professor of American Politics and Head of Political Science Department, 2012-2013 Kenneth Kofmehl Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award
Daniel P. Aldrich, Associate Professor of Public Policy, in Tohoku, Japan, after the March 2011 tsunami.

Associate Professor and University Scholar Daniel P. Aldrich has just returned from a year in Japan where he studied recovery from the March 2011 Tohoku disasters while on a Fulbright fellowship. Dr. Aldrich recently published his second book, *Building Resilience: Social Capital in Post-Disaster Recovery* (University of Chicago Press, 2012). Dr. Aldrich argues in his book that, in post-disaster relief and recovery, social infrastructure matters more than physical infrastructure. For him, cohesion, social capital, and trust stand out among other factors as being the most significant. His research has focused on the variation in survival and recovery rates along the many coastal cities in northern Japan. "Some cities lost very few people to the tsunami, while quite similar cities nearby lost many. Our initial analysis shows that how well connected people were in the cities made a big difference," he said. "Those individuals with more connections before the disaster had a better chance of escaping the event alive and then being part of resilience recoveries."